

Boone County Conservation Board joint meeting with Board of Supervisors
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Don Williams clubhouse and Lodge by the Lake

Conservation board members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Greg Stotts, Pat Hagan, Marilyn Jordan
Supervisors present: Steve Duffy, Bill Zinnel, Erich Kretzinger
Employees present: BCCB Ex. Dir. Katie Healy, BOS secretary Julie Hindman

Chair Jordan officially called the meeting to order shortly after 1:00 pm at the Don Williams clubhouse.

Motion made by Schieltz to approve the agenda, 2nd by Hagan. Passed. The Board of Supervisors also approved their agenda.

Motion to approve minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting by Stotts, 2nd by Hagan. Passed.

Ex. Dir. Healy began a discussion of the Don Williams golf course and clubhouse as well as personnel issues facing BCCB. The supervisors were able to tour the clubhouse and conservation board members pointed out the numerous issues and deficiencies with the facility, including bathroom and kitchen problems. It was noted that because the clubhouse operates as a food service facility, the concessionaire each year is required to have it certified by the state. Board members are concerned that the building may not pass future inspections. It is also not ADA compliant, so any changes to the facility will require us to bring it up to code, which would be very expensive. We also discuss the recurring problems with finding a concessionaire to operate the clubhouse each year. The general consensus is that the building will not be able to operate as-is for much longer and is not really “fixable”, so will need to be demolished rather than renovated. Additionally, long-time golf course superintendent Roger will be retiring this spring. The conservation board then discussed with the supervisors the issues and options laid out in the “Strategic Planning document” that they were provided prior to the meeting. Several big decisions will need to be made very soon, which will set the course for the future vision and operations of Boone County Conservation. Two very different options exist – each with their own pros and cons. The crux of this decision relates to whether we (along with the supervisors) will find a way to substantially invest in a new clubhouse and course irrigation, which are estimated to cost well over \$1 million, or instead phase out golf at Don Williams and dedicate that land to more cabins, trails, and natural areas instead. This decision will also affect how we may re-structure employee positions which need to be filled very soon.

The group then moved to the three cabins at Don Williams and toured the largest one, which can hold up to 6 people. These cabins are very popular, but do have issues with the septic systems freezing. These septic systems need replaced but must first be assessed/inspected by the state to determine what type and size of system is required. The board believes there is also strong demand for a larger cabin to be built that can hold more people.

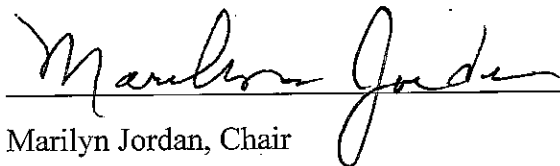
The group moved to the Lodge by the Lake for the remainder of the meeting. Ex. Dir. Healy presented a packet of materials to each member containing cost and income figures for recent years. Given rising costs and our historically low rates, we will be raising fees for 2022 for golf,

carts, and boat docks. The supervisors weighed in on whether we should raise these rates even more than proposed.

The group then discussed staffing considerations for next year. With the anticipated retirement of golf course superintendent Roger and the open Naturalist/Park Ranger position after Katie Healy's promotion to Executive Director, there is an opportunity to consider re-organizing these employee positions from what they have been in the past. We are moving forward with hiring a new Naturalist asap. We reviewed several options for re-structuring the ranger and golf course operation duties, depending on what decision is made regarding the golf course long-term.

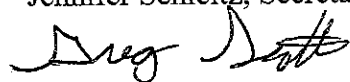
Supervisor Zinnel then handed out a map showing the old "County home" property and asked for the conservation board's input on the future of this property. The conservation board stated that we do not really have the resources or desire to manage this as a "park" and have no objection to the supervisors plan to sell the property.

Schieltz moved and Jordan seconded a motion to adjourn around 3:20 pm. Passed.



Marilyn Jordan, Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

 Board member